

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1199
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
SKELETAL FLUOROSIS
Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Endemic Skeletal Fluorosis has affected millions of people in the various States causing disability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether people affected by fluorosis are often exposed to multiple sources of fluoride in food and water as outlined in WHO Report; and
- (d) if so, steps taken to contain such Endemic Skeletal Fluorosis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): Skeletal fluorosis is one of the three forms of fluorosis. Based on the fluorine content of the drinking water in the country, fluorosis is a problem in 19 states, which are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh. It is estimated that population actually affected by fluorosis in the country is 25 million.

(c): Intake of fluoride is generally through drinking water and food products. Other sources of fluoride are industrial emissions, fluoride containing drugs.

(d): Fluorosis is combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a State subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramoddyaya Yojana (PMGY) – Rural Drinking Water for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Along with the Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ion-meters to different states for estimation of fluoride in drinking water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and Medical professionals from various States/Union Territories to generate awareness about fluorosis and check the spread of fluorosis in the country.

The Government is considering launch of a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis.